

Testimony of

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Before the

Education Committee

March 15, 2023

Good afternoon, Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 6884. This bill takes important steps toward addressing the educator shortage in Connecticut, showing educators that theirs is a respected profession, and ensuring that our classrooms and schools can provide the best possible education for our students.

Covid is still impacting education today. A covid benefit multiplier would help to ease some financial stress when retiring. This would help ensure that current teachers are rewarded for a small fraction of the stress Covid has had on the educational field. As a Physical Educator I can attest that if students have to be 5 when entering Kindergarten it ensures a more level playing field in the classroom setting. A year is a huge difference in learning readiness. Every grade level should have Play Based Learning. Students mental health is rapidly declining and part of that reason is because we are forgetting they are kids first and foremost. Play teaches social skills that integral to being a healthy successful student.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

